

PROPOSAL EVALUATION
IRWM Grant Program – Planning Grant, Round 1, FY 2010-2011

Applicant	Yuba County Water Agency	County	Yuba
Project Title	Yuba Region IRWMP Update 2	Grant Request	\$358,252
		Total Project Cost	\$584,372

Project Description The Plan update will continue to work with the local agencies to identify projects to address the needs of the DACs. Additional support has been allocated to support the development of projects serving DAC's so sufficient information is available to describe the project, and find ways to integrate the project into larger programs. One of the roles of the Project Integration Subcommittee (described in the application) is to look for opportunities to combine individual projects (including DAC projects) into larger programs that meet multiple objectives. Key water management issues for this region includes: flood management issues, water supply reliability, ecosystem preservation and enhancement, and water quality.

Evaluation Summary

Scoring Criterion	Score
Work Plan	9
DAC Involvement	8
Schedule	6
Budget	8
Program Preferences	3
Geographic Balance	0
Total Score	34

- **Work Plan** Overall, the work plan identifies a broad range of important principles for developing an IRWM Plan, but discusses few specifics and tasks are vaguely described. No actual projects are described. The application does not propose a mechanism for supporting stakeholders that lack statutory authority or staff to participate in governance or decision-making. The work plan does not present sufficient, concrete organizational or technical detail to provide a clear path forward to update or complete a standards-compliant IRWM Plan. Also, the work plan fails to identify metrics or a clear plan for monitoring or evaluating plan performance.
- **DAC Involvement** The work plan identifies eight specific communities and areas that are classified as disadvantaged. The work plan provides a reasonably well-defined description of how DACs will be involved in the IRWM process. The stakeholder outreach process includes a comprehensive effort to activate and engage stakeholders, including DACs, tribal communities and other underrepresented groups, in the IRWM planning process. However, based on the description of Task 4.7 Project Support for DACs, it appears that the RWMG will not work directly with the DACs.
- **Schedule** Schedule is consistent with the work plan and budget. However, the schedule lacks detail and provides no supporting documentation. It does not indicate the sequence of work tasks (other than the production of reports), milestones, or the actual timeframe of work being done. Given the status of stakeholder involvement and the lack of detail for the work tasks, a 12-month schedule for completion appears to be insufficient to complete a standards-compliant IRWM Plan.
- **Budget** Budget is consistent with the work plan and the schedule; however, given the lack of specific detail on the work to be performed, it is difficult to determine if costs are reasonable. Additionally, direct costs for Tasks 4 through 7, which include the production of the draft and final reports, are estimated to be zero and do not appear to be reasonable.
- **Program Preference** The proposal mentions 11 Program Preferences; however, only three program preferences are adequately addressed. They are: regional programs or projects, effectively integrate water management with land use planning, and climate change.
- **Geographic Balance** Not Applicable